

Penn'a. Freedmen's Relief Association,

No. 424 WALNUT STREET, PHILADELPHIA.

Thursday Morning, Oct. 12, 1865.

Dear Wife:

I have not had a moment to myself, since we parted, to sit down and pencil a letter to you till now; nor can I send you a long one, for I am to be immediately engrossed in the business of our Freedmen's Commission.

You will remember, perhaps, that our friend Mr. Mc Kim, on leaving us last week, eulogized travelling by night in a sleeping-car as a perfect luxury. Doubtless it may be so to one who becomes oblivious through unbroken sleep; but I found it so disagreeable that I shall not be in a hurry to try the experiment again. Lying down, I found the hearing much more sensitive to the rattle and roar of the train, and the constant oscillation of the car made the sensation very much like that experienced in a vessel at sea. Throughout the long night, (I "retired to rest" (I) at 9 o'clock,) I may have occasionally dozed for a few moments, ~~occasionally~~ but I had no sleep, and was glad to reach New York by six o'clock. Consulting Franky's plainly written direction where to find Mr. Mc Kim, (34th street, East of 4th Avenue, No. 134,) and knowing that he would be waiting for me to take breakfast together, I took my valise, shawl and umbrella, and walked from 27th to 34th street, but found no 134; and so, concluding that it must be 24th street instead of 34th, I went there, found 134, but not my friend, as he did not board there. —

(His boarding-place is 18th street, No. 134.) Despairing of finding him, I took a horse-car, and went down to a restaurant in the Times' building, near the offices of the Independent and the Nation, and took breakfast; then went to the office of the Nation, and after waiting an hour had the pleasure of embracing Wendell, who had been detained by the boat later than usual. Soon after, Mc Kim came in, and stated that he was going to Philadelphia in the 10 o'clock train, and wished me to accompany him. Wendell went down to the depot with us. Of course, we had but little time for conversation beyond mutual inquiries as to Brooklyn and Rockledge. He was looking and feeling as well as usual.

On our way to Philadelphia we were detained nearly two hours, in consequence of the disabling, first, of one engine - next, of another. On arriving in the city, Mc Kim went to the Freedmen's Rooms, and I to Germantown. Both Mrs. Mc Kim and Lucy were absent, and did not return till late tea-time, not expecting us till the 10 o'clock night train. However, I told the colored girl who I was, and got her to show me to my chamber, where I washed and rested a little - feeling very empty about the stomach, not having had any dinner, nor any opportunity to procure food. At tea-time Mc Kim got home, and wife and daughter soon after; and, of course, a very pleasant time we had of it. You are always the first inquired after wherever I go, and any encouraging word I can say in regard to your improvement gives manifest pleasure. Say not, dearest, that it is because you are my wife. All who know you love and esteem you for your

own good qualities; and they see and understand how faithfully you have met your responsibilities as a wife and mother.

I believe the wedding-day for Wendell and Lucy is now fixed for the 6th or 7th of December. It will be more convenient for me to have the ceremony take place than at the close of the month, and, therefore, I am glad of the alteration of time.

I shall bring you some of Mrs. Mc Kim's nice sweet corn, which she says you will know how to cook. At each meal we have had the fresh sweet corn gathered from the garden, in the eating of which you would have revelled. It is equal to anything Providence can grow.

Yesterday we had two sessions of our Commission, and found ourselves to be very united in spirit, and in the resolutions and testimonies we adopted. Bishop Simpson was with ~~us~~ us throughout. I am very much pleased with him—a sensible, modest, straight-forward man. We are to have another meeting this forenoon.

Last evening we had a splendid meeting of four thousand persons at the Academy of Music, multitudes being unable to gain admission. Addresses were made by Bishop McElvaine, Bishop Simpson, Rev. Dr. Bellows, Rev. Henry Ward Beecher, and myself. I was driven into ^a corner as to time, by the last speaker, and made a failure of it, I am quite sure. I never do half as well on a platform with others, as I do if I have a meeting entirely to myself. The meeting, as a whole, was a great success.

This afternoon I am going with the McKims to James and Lucretia Mott's, to take tea, and spend the evening. I saw Lucretia last evening at the meeting. She was looking very saintly, and as growing more and more fit for her heavenly translation. I expect to have a very pleasant time.

It has been bright weather ever since I left. I hope you have had some additional rain; but it is all right, whether it rain or shine.

A father's love to the dear children. A husband's love to you. Whenever I go, I carry you in the core of my heart. Adieu!

Yours, endlessly,

Wm. Slope Garrison.

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